

A-71748/MSS  
463035-770

IAP6 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 NOV 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF MAIL (37 CFR 2.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Attention: MAIL STOP Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 20, 2006

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Laura Lee Mosier

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Dale R. Du BOIS, *et al.*

Serial No. 10/521,619

Filed: January 14, 2005

For: THERMAL PROCESSING SYSTEM  
AND CONFIGURABLE VERTICAL  
CHAMBER

Examiner: To be assigned

Group Art Unit: To be assigned

Confirmation No.: 2146

Date: November 20, 2006

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PRIOR TO FIRST OFFICIAL ACTION**

Mail Stop Amendments  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

Applicants submit herewith patents and publications which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. While this Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication, or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

Enclosed herewith are PTO/SB/8A and PTO/SB/8B forms listing art potentially relevant or of interest to the referenced patent application. This application claims priority to PCT/US2003/021575 filed July 10, 2003 and claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application of Serial No. 60/396,536 filed July 15, 2002 and U.S. provisional patent application of Serial No. 60/428,526 filed November 22, 2002, under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

In satisfaction of the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants wish to draw the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the references cited on the accompanying forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B. In accordance with 1273 Off. Gaz. Pat. Off. 1, 8/5/2003, no copies of U.S. patents and U.S. published applications are enclosed. Copies of all other references are enclosed.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists.

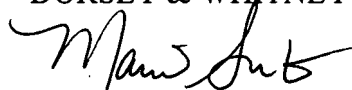
It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and MPEP § 609 and consideration of the foregoing plus the prompt return of a copy of the enclosed forms PTO/SB/8A & 8B with the Examiner's initials in the left column in accordance with MPEP 609 are respectfully requested.

This information disclosure statement is being filed in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97(b) as being filed before the mailing date of the first office action on the merits and therefore no fee is required.

Should any questions or comments arise regarding the listing of the submitted publications and patents in which the Examiner feels a telephone conversation would be appropriate, he or she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>		
				Application Number	10/521,619	
				Filing Date	January 14, 2005	
				First Named Inventor	Dale R. DuBOIS	
				Group Art Unit	2146	
				Examiner Name	To be assigned	
Sheet	1	of	6	Attorney Docket Number	A-71748/MSS (463035-770)	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
		Number Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)				
		6,902,395	Oosterlaken <i>et al.</i>	06-07-2005		
		6,879,777	Goodman <i>et al.</i>	04-12-2005		
		6,830,007	Matsuki <i>et al.</i>	12-14-2004		
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		Office <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)				
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		Number Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)				
		6,921,556	Shimizu <i>et al.</i>	07-26-2005		
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		6,190,104		Ikeda <i>et al.</i>	02-20-2001		
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Sheet	4	of	6
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		Number Kind Code <sup>2</sup> <i>(if known)</i>				
		2003/0221623	Shima <i>et al.</i>	12-04-2003		
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